

Section II. (Amendments to the Claims)

Please amend claims 1-15 and add new claims 16-17, as set out below in the listing of claims 1-17 of the application.

1. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method of preparing nanoparticles, having a size of less than 1 μm , for the administration of active ingredients, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

- a) dissolving a biodegradable polymer together with a polyoxyethylene-derived block copolymer in an organic solvent, the weight ratio of both polymers being between 1:0.1 and 1:3;
- b) adding, with stirring, the solution obtained to a polar phase, wherein the biodegradable polymer has low solubility, precipitating the polymer and forming the nanoparticles;
- c) eliminating the organic solvent; and
- d) isolating the particles,

~~where~~ wherein the active ingredient is dissolved in the organic solvent used in a) before ~~of~~ or after step a), or is dissolved in a small volume of the aqueous phase, which is then dispersed in the organic solvent used in a), before or after step a).

2. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it comprises an additional step after e) of lyophilising~~ further comprising lyophilizing the nanoparticles obtained.

3. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to ~~any of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the biodegradable polymer is comprises a polyester.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to ~~any of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the biodegradable polymer is comprises a polyanhydride.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the polyester is selected from among polycaprolactone, polylactic acid, polylactic co-glycolic acid and their mixtures.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the block copolymer is comprises a poloxamer.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the poloxamer has a molecular weight comprised between 1,000 and 25,000 Daltons.
8. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the block copolymer is a poloxamine.
9. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 8, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the poloxamine has a molecular weight comprised between 1,000 and 25,000 Daltons.
10. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the active ingredient is selected from molecules with therapeutic properties, ~~vaccinations~~ vaccines and cosmetic ingredients.
11. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the weight ratio of both polymers is between 1:1 and 1:3.
12. (Currently amended) Nanoparticles for the administration of pharmaceutically- or cosmetically-active ingredients, having a size of less than 1 μm , ~~which can be obtained using the method according to any of claims 1 and 3 to 10~~ as produced by the method of claim 1.
13. (Currently amended) ~~Lyophilised~~ Lyophilized nanoparticles for the administration of pharmaceutically- or cosmetically-active ingredients, having a size of less than 1 μm , ~~which can be obtained using the method according to~~ as produced by the method of claim 2.
14. (Currently amended) ~~Compositions characterised in that they comprise~~ A composition comprising nanoparticles ~~[[,]]~~ according to ~~any of claims 12 and 13~~ claim 12.
15. (Currently amended) ~~Pharmaceutical~~ A pharmaceutical or cosmetic ~~compositions~~ composition ~~[[,]]~~ ~~characterised in that they comprise~~ comprising nanoparticles ~~[[,]]~~ according to ~~any of claims 12 and 13~~ claim 12.
16. (New) A composition comprising nanoparticles according to claim 13.
17. (New) A pharmaceutical or cosmetic composition comprising nanoparticles according to claim 13.